TRENDS

ASSOCIATION
OF AMERICAN
RAILROADS

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and Public Affairs
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, August 25, 1988 -- Freight traffic on major U.S. railroads during the week ended August 20, totaled 19.9 billion ton-miles, up 3.5 percent from the 19.2 billion carried in the comparable week of 1987, the Association of American Railroads reported today.

Cumulative volume for the first 33 weeks of 1988 was an estimated 628.1 billion ton-miles carried, up 7.4 percent from the comparable period of last year.

Carloadings originated in the week ended August 20 totaled 442,169 -- highest since the week ended October 31, 1987 -- up 3.0 percent from the corresponding week of last year, and 2.8 percent above the preceding week. Compared with last year, carloadings originated were down 0.1 percent in the East, but up 6.3 percent in the West.

Compared with the corresponding week of last year, 12 of the 20 major commodity groups increased. Loadings of motor vehicles and equipment were up 3,007 cars (19.3 percent); metallic ores increased by 2,941 cars (15.9 percent); but grain was down 3,881 cars (12.2 percent). Fourteen of the 20 commodity groups increased from the preceding week.

Piggyback

Piggyback traffic for the week ended August 13 totaled 112,959 trailers and/or containers, up 7.5 percent from the comparable week of 1987.

The cumulative volume of TOFC/COFC traffic for the first 32 weeks of the year was 3,479,347 trailers and/or containers, up 5.5 percent from 1987.

(more)

Following are carloadings of major railroads, by commodity groups, for the week ended 8/20/88:

	Loadings in Week ended August 20, 1988		Change from Corresponding Week 1987			Change from Preceding Week	
	Cars		Cars	Percent		Cars	Percent
Grain	27,926	D	3,881	12.2	I	839	3.1
Other farm products	2,379	D	24	1.0	D	169	6.6
Metallic ores	21,490	I	2,941	15.9	I	906	4.4
Coal	132,708	I	1,496	1.1	I	3,927	3.0
Crushed stone, gravel and sand	19,387	I	1,640	9.2	I	376	2.0
Nonmetallic minerals	11,078	I	1,277	13.0	I	124	1.1
Grain mill products	10,095	D	641	6.0	D	129	1.3
Food and kindred products	11,185	I	51	0.5	I	260	2.4
Primary forest products	9,750	D	1,052	9.7	D	83	0.8
Lumber and wood products except furniture	7,037	D	1,379	16.4	I	311	4.6
Pulp, paper and allied products	11,913	D	100	0.8	D	147	1.2
Chemicals and allied products	28,309	I	2,315	8.9	I	652	2.4
Petroleum products	5,702	I	798	16.3	I	202	3.7
Stone, clay and glass products	11,430	D	97	0.8	I	- 74	0.7
Coke	5,988	I	981	19.6	I	310	5.5
Metals and products	10,075	I	462	4.8	I	508	5.3
Motor vehicles and equipment	18,559	I	3,007	19.3	I	2,426	15.0
Waste and scrap materials	9,756	I	757	8.4	D	233	2.3
Forwarder and shipper association traffic	2,349	D	756	24.3	D	50	2.1
All other carloads	85,053	I	5,041	6.3	I	1,843	2.2
Total Cars Loaded	442,169	I	12,836	3.0	I	11,947	2.8
Corresponding week of 1987	429,333						

	1988	1987	% Change
Total Cars Loaded (33 weeks)	13,892,652	13,160,237	I 5.6
Estimated revenue ton-miles (in billions):			
32 weeks ended August 13	608.2	565.5	I 7.6
Week ended August 20	19.9	- 19.2	I 3.5
33 Weeks cumulative	628.1	584.7	I 7.4

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